

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:24-cv-0040-KDB-SCR**

<b>BRANDY WOODIE,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>CASE FARMS PROCESSING, INC.,</b>	)	<b><u>CONSENT PROTECTIVE ORDER</u></b>
<b>CASE FARMS, LLC, and JUAN</b>	)	
<b>ARIAS,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Defendants.</b>	)	

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**Background Statement**

In the course of discovery, Plaintiff Brandy Woodie and Defendants Case Farms Processing, Inc., Case Farms, LLC, and Juan Arias (collectively the “Parties”) will request and exchange information and documents that are or may be of a personal and/or a proprietary nature, including but not limited to personnel records, financial records, medical records and materials related to employee benefits, as well as confidential commercial information and trade secrets, competitively sensitive commercial information, customer or donor data and other personal or financial information regarding Defendant’s current or former employees, or other third parties. The Parties seek to limit the use of the information and documents to protect themselves from annoyance and potential embarrassment as well as to maintain the confidentiality of personal and/or proprietary information. Accordingly, they have agreed to the entry of this Consent Protective Order (“Order”) to facilitate the production of the information requested and any information that has been or will be produced during discovery in this case.

## **PROTECTIVE ORDER**

### **Designation of Confidential Information**

1. “Confidential information” as used herein means any type or classification of information designated as “confidential” in the manner specified below, in the good faith belief that such information falls within the scope of Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and is subject to this Order. For purposes of this Order, “confidential information” means proprietary, business, commercial, financial and/or personal information, including but not limited to employee personnel files, pay and benefits information, leave of absence documentation, medical records, drug testing documents, workers’ compensation files, corporate policies and procedures, trade secrets and other competitively sensitive materials, financial records, pricing information, actuarial records and reports and information about disabilities or medical conditions, tax returns, customer information, vendor information, and other personal or financial information relating to one or both of the Parties to this lawsuit or third parties. “Confidential information” may include documents, information contained in documents, depositions, interrogatory answers, and all other discovery pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, court testimony, matters in evidence and other information that falls within the scope of this Order furnished by or on behalf of any party or third party in connection with this litigation.

2. The party producing any documents or information subject to this Order shall have the right to use its discretion in designating materials to be confidential information as defined herein. However, the party shall be obligated to designate only documents or information that it believes in good faith to be information within the scope of Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Moreover, the party shall be obligated to make specific designations to the extent reasonably possible and to avoid overbroad designations.

3. Any party producing documents may designate such documents and copies thereof as confidential by marking any confidential page as follows: CONFIDENTIAL. In lieu of placing said legend on the originals of documents, the producing party may legend the copies that are produced. When producing a multi-page document, all of that it contends is confidential, a party may designate the entire document as confidential by marking the cover page as follows: CONFIDENTIAL.

4. Information disclosed at the deposition of any party or at the deposition of one of its present or former officers, directors, employees or agents, or of independent experts retained by any party for purposes of this litigation may be designated by such party as confidential by indicating on the record at the deposition that the testimony is confidential and subject to the provisions of this Order. Alternatively, such party may designate information disclosed at such deposition as confidential by notifying all Parties in writing, within ten business (10) days of receipt of the transcript, of the specific pages and lines of the transcript that are confidential. Each party shall attach a copy of such written statement to the face of the transcript and each copy thereof in its possession, custody or control. All depositions shall be treated as confidential for a period of at least ten business (10) days after a full and complete transcript of said deposition is available.

5. Documents and information produced by a third party in response to a subpoena or authorized records request (such as requests for healthcare records) in connection with this litigation may be designated by a party to the litigation as confidential by notifying all Parties in writing, within ten business (10) days of receipt of such documents and information, of the specific documents and information that are confidential and producing copies of such documents marked “CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with Paragraph 3. All documents and information received

from a third party in response to a subpoena or authorized shall be treated as confidential for a period of at least ten business (10) days after such documents and information are received by all Parties.

### **Use of Confidential Information**

6. Confidential information shall be used only for the purpose of these proceedings and shall not be disclosed to any person except the following:

- (a) Counsel for any party, the legal associates, clerical or other support staff of such counsel assisting in the preparation of this action, and any party, to the extent necessary to prepare this case for this litigation;
- (b) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 7 below, any party, including agents, representatives and employees of a party, as is necessary to prepare this case for litigation;
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 7 below, independent experts (who shall not be a party or an employee of a party) employed by counsel for the purpose of assisting in this action;
- (d) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 7 below, a witness or potential witness, as is necessary to prepare this case for litigation;
- (e) any court, including this Court, or appellate body that has cause to consider any of the issues raised in this action, as well as the court reporter and court personnel at any deposition, pretrial hearing, trial or other proceedings held in connection with this action;
- (f) Jurors and prospective jurors; and
- (g) Or any other person or entity to whom this Court orders or allows disclosure after notice and opportunity for hearing.

### **Non-Disclosure of Confidential Information**

7. No person to whom confidential information is disclosed shall disclose such confidential information to any person to whom disclosure is not authorized by the terms of this Order, or make any other disclosure of such confidential information for any purpose whatsoever,

commercial, or otherwise. In addition to the other restrictions on disclosure contained herein, the Parties agree that no confidential information may be disclosed to any person pursuant to Paragraph 6(b), (c), or (d) above (including any consultant, expert, employee of any party, or non-party witness) until such person has read and signed a copy of this Order, thereby indicating his or her willingness to be bound by its provisions. The disclosing party shall have the obligation to maintain records identifying all such persons to whom information has been disclosed.

#### **Information Filed with the Court**

8. Documents or information designated CONFIDENTIAL in discovery or that a party maintains should not be subject to public disclosure may be filed under seal pursuant to the Court's Local Rule 6.1.

#### **General Conditions**

9. In the event that a party disputes the propriety of the designation of any material or information as confidential, that party may file a motion with the Court requesting a ruling regarding whether the material or information should be treated as confidential for purposes of this Order. No party shall be obligated to challenge the propriety of any designation of information as confidential and a failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent attack on the propriety of such designation.

10. At the conclusion of the litigation, the Parties agree to return any confidential information to the party providing the confidential information, except transcriptions of depositions taken in the course of this proceeding, at the request of the other party or to confirm in writing as to the destruction of any confidential information.

11. The ultimate disposition of protected materials shall be subject to final order of the Court.

12. This Order shall not abrogate or diminish any contractual, statutory or other legal obligation or right of any party or person with respect to the confidential information. Specifically, this Order shall not require any party to notify or to obtain permission from other parties before introducing materials designated confidential at trial or examining witnesses about materials designated confidential during depositions or at trial, beyond the notice required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, local court rules or order of Court.

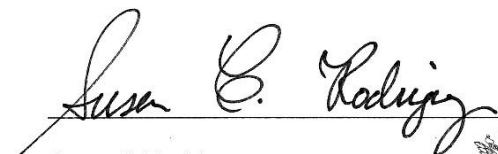
13. Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Order shall be deemed to preclude any party from seeking and obtaining, on an appropriate showing, such additional protection with respect to confidential information as that party may consider appropriate; nor shall any party be precluded from claiming that any matter designated hereunder is not entitled to protection, or is entitled to a more limited form of protection than designated.

14. The production of attorney-client privileged materials, work product protected materials, or trial preparation materials shall not constitute a waiver of those protections. In the event of the production of such protected information, the Parties will follow the procedure set out in Rule 26(b)(5)(B) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

15. In accordance with Rule 16(b)(1)(B) and Federal Rules of Evidence Rule 502, any privileged documents inadvertently produced may be “clawed back” by the party that produced them within fourteen (14) days of being served with written notice of the inadvertent disclosure by the party who received the document.

**SO ORDERED.**

Signed: June 6, 2024

  
Susan C. Rodriguez  
United States Magistrate Judge



Respectfully submitted, this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

**/s/ Joseph D. Budd**

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